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MISCELLANEOUS.

PAYING TOO DEAR FOR THE WHISTLE; or, *Economy of Navies for the protection of Commerce.*—The chief and stale plea for a navy is, with us, its necessity for the protection of our commerce and its connected interests in different parts of the world. We deny its necessity for this purpose; but, even admitting its necessity, we say it is paying altogether too dear for the objects supposed to be gained.

Take a general view. "The mercantile shipping of the civilized world amounts to about 8,000,000 tons, which is worth, new and old, about \$31 per ton, and nets, clear of insurance, &c., 10 per cent., or 24,000,000 per annum. The appropriation of the British navy for the last year, was \$33,620,000! Is not this a sober fact, that the annual expense of one nation's navy exceeds the net profits of all the mercantile shipping owned by the civilized world?"

The same illustration might be applied to our own country. Our little navy has of late years cost us annually some *ten million dollars*, and this year the administration call for a still larger appropriation; but it would be easy to show, by an ample array of facts and figures, that the expense of our navy, as the alleged guardian of our commerce, exceeds the entire net profits of our whole mercantile marine.

"We have," says SAMUEL E. COVES, Esq., (in 1845,) whose statements from his long personal experience, are entitled to much weight, "about 1,000,000 tons of shipping engaged in the foreign trade, which is two thousand ships, averaging five hundred tons each. The cost of this shipping is \$60 per ton. The actual value of our mercantile marine is about \$40 dollars per ton, taking them together, new and old. This would make the value of our shipping to be forty millions of dollars, about five times the annual cost of our navy. Our navigation, therefore, must earn every year, or benefit the country, 20 per cent. of its value, to pay for its protection by our navy. The ship owner does not, upon an average, one year with another, earn five per cent. besides the interest on the capital employed. This estimate—5 per cent.—would give two millions as the profit to the owners. The captains, officers and American seamen engaged in foreign trade, do not receive over three millions in wages. The increased value of American ship-building materials, (principally timber, for the iron, copper, hemp and canvass are mostly imported,) on account of the construction of ships, does not exceed one and a-half millions. The labor paid in ship-building, is about one million dollars. Altogether seven and a-half millions are the national profit of our navigation, or about the cost of the navy. But, if you please, double this estimate of the profit of our navigation; prove, if you can, that I undervalue the benefit of our commercial marine, and that I overvalue the cost of fighting ships, still it settles nothing in favor of our navy; for the navy is not of the least practical advantage to our navigation. There are nations now enjoying a profitable navigation, who have not a single vessel of war, and who are sailing their ships so cheaply, as to interfere most seriously with the employment of our ships by our own commerce."

COST OF INDIA BEYOND HER INCOME TO ENGLAND.—The *Westminster Review*, in an article on *India and its Finances*, gives the following state-

ments concerning the revenue and expenses of the Indian Government, from which it will be perceived that the property is not productive :—

“The revenue of the government for the seventeen years, from 1834-35 to 1850-51, both inclusive, was on the average, as follows, the figures being those of the net produce of the several classes of taxes :

From land, movables, spirits, tributes, subsidies, and tobacco, (of which about £1,500,000 is from all but land.)	£10,784,888
From Customs	1,194,838
From Salt	1,864,633
From Opium	1,707,744
From Stamps	377,133
From Miscellaneous Sources	117,014

£16,046,250

To this net produce are to be added, charges of collection, and other payments out of the gross produce of the taxes. 4,983,735

Gross Annual Revenue. £21,029,985

During the same period the net charges were, on the average as follows :

Civil and Political	£1,706,305
Judicial and Police	1,682,452
Marine	234,454
Military	8,526,459
War	492,730
Interest on Debt	1,710,300
Territorial payment in England	2,298,409
Political stores exported from England	347,183
Miscellaneous	81,956

£16,780,334

From these figures it appears that the annual average deficit during the same period was the difference between £16,780,334 of net expenses, and £16,046,250 of net receipts, or £734,084.”

Following this, is a statement of the increase of the Indian debt, from which it appears that it now exceeds fifty millions sterling, with an annual increase of three-quarters of a million. It seems that the Indian deficit has been by some ascribed entirely to the expense of wars, and that sanguine expectations are entertained of the profits of peace; but the *Review* sees no prospect for the future, different from that taught by the experience of the past, and argues that wars are fully as probable from the circumstances surrounding the Indian Government as in any other past interval of peace.

It then adverts to that remarkable item in the receipts—Opium, from which no less a sum than £1,707,744 sterling is annually derived. Dismissing all consideration of the traffic in its moral relations, the article proceeds to give a history of the revenue derived from opium, accounts for fluctuations in the receipts, and shows the probability that this means of is soon to be lost, leaving an annual average deficit of about £2,500,000 sterling. The various items of revenue are then considered without discovering any hope of considerable increase, and the expenditures having been examined, are pronounced, under the present condition of things, to be incapable of diminution.

EFFECT OF WARLIKE AGITATIONS ON NATIONAL WEALTH.—Has any one ever reflected, asks a French journal, what France would be at present, if she had been the last fifty years exempt from revolutions? She would certainly be the most rich, the most brilliant, and the most formidable of nations. But about every fifteen years, when capital has accumulated, and when manufactures and business are in their full course of progress, a political commotion comes and overturns the edifice, and all is to be commenced again.

Mr. Macanlay, the eminent historian, in one of his essays, remarks with justice, that England for the last 160 years has not had any revolution, and that it is principally to that cause that her power and grandeur are to be attributed. Nations cannot, in fact, become wealthy unless they have a stable political constitution, and rich nations are happy and powerful.

M. Chevalier, "on the expense of revolutions," says, "in 1848, a dull year, the sum total of manufactures was 1,462,628,000 francs. In 1848 it fell to 678,524,000—a loss of 787 millions, or 54 per cent.; 343,000 workmen were employed in 1847; 186,000 in 1848—also a diminution of 54 per cent. M. Chevalier concludes "it may be the Parisians will never forget this severe lesson. The revolution of February cost them 800,000,000 of francs."

RISE OF THE BRITISH WAR DEBT.—The National Debt of England now (1853) exceeds £800,000,000; but taking it in round numbers at £800,000,000, it may be said to have accumulated at the rate of over £15 12s. per hour since the commencement of the world; £49 5s. per hour since the birth of Christ; £116 per hour since the Conquest, (A. D. 1066.)

At the Revolution of 1688 the debt was only £664,263.

At the beginning of the American War, 1776, it amounted to	£125,945,051
At the conclusion of Peace in 1783, to	238,484,051

Increase by American War,	£112,539,919
At the beginning of the French Revolutionary War, the debt amounted to	233,733,609
At the conclusion of Peace in 1816, to	864,822,461

Increase by the War,	£651,088,852
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In addition to the sum here stated, there was raised by *taxation*, in support of the war, about £528,000,000, making the whole cost of the 22 years' war to Great Britain, something over the enormous sum of £1,159,000,000 or \$5,795,000,000.

BISHOP POTTER ON THE EULOGISTS OF NAPOLEON.—At a recent Educational Convention, held at Pittsburg, many of the speakers alluded in terms of censure to the low character of much of the magazine literature of the country. The partizan life of Napoleon, by Rev. Mr. Abbott, came in for a share of the denunciation. One of the most severe rebukes administered on the occasion, was given by Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania. A clergyman of his high standing and amiable character must be deeply moved to utter language so unusual for an Episcopal Bishop. He is reported to have said:

"A series of articles are now being published, in one of the popular periodicals of the day, said to be written by a clergyman. I hope, for the honor of the profession, this is not so. These articles throw the halo of glory round the character of a selfish, ambitious and bloody man. They make him out kind, benevolent, and almost everything that is good—making his crimes virtues, because developed upon such an enormous scale

Now, if a man *lies*, it is our duty, if we speak of him historically, to *say* he *lies*. Away with literature that would make a paragon of excellence out of a monster!"

DIFFERENT WAYS TO STOP WARS!—'Put an end,' says one, 'to hoary, iron-handed despotisms. They live on the war-system, on its drilled and disciplined janissaries, as their chief, well-nigh only support. You can never have peace till the despotic and monarchical governments of Europe are all overthrown, and their place supplied by free popular governments. Freedom is the harbinger, the only sure guaranty of general and permanent peace. There must be one grand war more, a volcanic blow-up of all despotisms; then the sword will be sheathed, and left to rust in its scabbard.'

Thus republicans reason. But let us see how the supporters of despotic rule view the matter. The London Globe, not long since, quoted from a pamphlet published at Naples, the following passage:—

"The world will never have peace until all the sovereigns united shall be able to destroy this plundering people (England), and wipe them away from the nations of the earth—until the English people are dispersed like the Hebrews—until London, like Jerusalem, shall be in ruins and ashes. Then Europe will be safe. Let us console ourselves in God, France will do it—the time approaches."

THE TWO ARMIES.—The United States army, says the Economist, numbers about ten thousand men, and they cost the country, last year, eight million two hundred and thirty-five thousand two hundred and forty-six dollars, to pay subsistence, clothing, etc. That is to say, eight hundred and twenty dollars per man, or, if we deduct the militia expenses, eight hundred dollars per man. It would puzzle any one to tell of what service are those men, living uselessly in barracks and old forts, eating three meals per day, and turning out occasionally to touch their caps to their officers. The Illinois Central Railroad army numbers ten thousand men also, and they receive from the company three million seven hundred thousand dollars per annum, in return for which they labor twelve hours per day, upon a work which gradually stretches through the most fertile plains, connecting the great lakes with the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and ultimately with the Gulf of Mexico. The prospective building of the great Central Railroad of Illinois alone has added to the wealth of that State, in the appropriation of wild lands, the sum of forty millions, within a strip of but twelve miles in width; and the actual construction of the road will bring to a ready market millions of acres of land now owned by the general government, which, were the road not constructed, would lie waste for years to come. The federal government employs ten thousand men, at the expense of eight millions of dollars, to carry about muskets. The Central Railroad Company, employing ten thousand men, at less than four millions of dollars, confers a vast property upon the State, upon the federal government, and upon thousands of farmers. Year after year the government spends its millions of dollars, effecting nothing, producing nothing, and resulting in nothing but the turning loose of superannuated soldiers, made paupers by a life of idleness, to prey upon the industrious during the remainder of their existence. The Illinois Company, by three years' expenditure, establishes seven hundred miles of iron rails through prolific farms, many of them owned by the persons whom they employed to build the road, men of industry, vigor, wealth, and intelligence. The United States, in thirty years, have spent three hundred millions of dollars—enough to build a double track to the Pacific—and they have nothing to show for the money but some old forts, guns, tattered uniforms, and demoralized veterans.

THE STUTTERING RECRUIT; *or, a good, though laughable reason for not entering the army.*—During the revolutionary war, when drafts were made from the militia to recruit the continental army, a certain captain gave liberty to the men who were drafted from his company, to make their objections, if they had any, against going into service. Accordingly one of them, who had an impediment in his speech, came forward and made his bow.

‘What is your objection?’ said the captain.

‘I ca-ca-can’t go,’ answered the man, ‘Ise st-st-stutters.’

‘Stutters!’ said the captain, ‘you don’t go there to talk, but to fight.’

‘Ay, but they’ll p-p-put me on g-g-guard, and a man may go ha-ha-half a mile before I can say wh-wh-who goes there?’

‘O, that is no objection, for they will place some other sentry with you. He can challenge, and you can fire.’

‘Well, b-b-but I may be ta-ta-taken, and run through the g-g-guts before I can cry qu-qu-quarters.’

This last plea prevailed; and the captain, laughing heartily, dismissed him.

PETITIONS BY THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

I. PETITION TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable the Senate of the United States:*

The American Peace Society beg leave respectfully to address your Honorable Body on a subject involving the resources and stability of the Republic, and the personal security and happiness of every citizen.

Neither facts nor arguments are needed at the present time to prove that WAR is one of the direct calamities to which mankind are subject. Its multiplied and aggravated evils are acknowledged and deprecated by all. The only professed justification of war is, that it averts a still greater evil. We stop not to inquire how far this plea is urged in good faith, nor how far it is supported by the testimony of history. We come before your Honorable Body to ask your adoption of a measure having all the conservative influence ascribed to war, without its horrors and devastations, and thus to illustrate both the present age, already so distinguished for the benefits it has conferred on the human family, and the American character, renowned for its practical adaptation to the removal of existing evils.

Whatever opinion your memorialists may entertain of the wisdom and efficacy of military preparation as a means of securing the blessings of peace, they ask no action of your Honorable Body in reference to the army and navy; nor do they propose any measures in the slightest degree impairing the ability of the nation to repel aggression. They merely request your countenance for a simple, efficacious mode of averting war, which, without making the smallest sacrifice of national honor, will secure the just claims of the country with far greater certainty than the ever doubtful arbitration of the sword.

However friendly may be our present relations with other powers, causes of complaint will no doubt hereafter arise to interrupt the existing amity. If, as many suppose, it is the dictate of wisdom, “in peace prepare for war,” surely it is the dictate of a far higher wisdom, “*in peace prepare to prevent war.*”

We are now at peace with all the nations of the earth; and both our power, and our extended and coveted commerce are guarantees that any proposition we may in the spirit of amity make to foreign governments, will be respectfully received, and deliberately considered. The high and peculiar

* A similar petition has been sent to the House of Representatives.